

Applicant : Anke Rattenholl et al.
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for the preparation of biologically active β -NGF from its inactive pro form having a poor solubility which is obtainable after recombinant preparation in prokaryotes, wherein proNGF in its inactive form having poor solubility is solubilized in a solution of a denaturing agent in a denaturing concentration and is afterwards transferred into a solution which is not or weakly denaturing whereby solubility is maintained and the denatured proNGF assumes a biologically active conformation as determined by the disulfide bonds present in native β -NGF, and subsequently the prosequence is cleaved off whereby active β -NGF is obtained which can be isolated.
2. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein the not or weakly denaturing solution contains arginine.
3. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein the concentration of arginine is 0.2 to 1.5 mol/l.
4. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein the naturation is carried out in the presence of a thiol component in its reduced and oxidized form.
5. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein the cleaving off of the prosequence is carried out by means of a protease with a substrate specificity for cleaving after the amino acid arginine.
6. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 5 wherein trypsin is used as the protease.

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7. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.
8. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical preparation containing recombinant proNGF as the active ingredient.
9. (Withdrawn) The use of recombinant proNGF for the preparation of a pharmaceutical preparation for the treatment of neuropathies.
10. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein the naturation is carried out in the presence of a thiol component in its reduced and oxidized form.
11. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 3 wherein the naturation is carried out in the presence of a thiol component in its reduced and oxidized form.
12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein the cleaving off of the prosequence is carried out by means of a protease with a substrate specificity for cleaving after the amino acid arginine.
13. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 3 wherein the cleaving off of the prosequence is carried out by means of a protease with a substrate specificity for cleaving after the amino acid arginine.
14. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 4 wherein the cleaving off of the prosequence is carried out by means of a protease with a substrate specificity for cleaving after the amino acid arginine.
15. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

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16. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 3 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 4 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 5 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

19. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

20. (New) The pharmaceutical preparation of claim 8, wherein the proNGF is recombinant.